

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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TAGS: ETRD, AR

SUBJECT: NEW GSP REGULATIONS: KATZ-CURA MEETING

REF: A. BUENOS AIRES 8903, B. STATE 222387

1. PARAGRAPH 5 OF REF A REFERS TO DISCUSSION BETWEEN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ AND UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS COMODORO CURA REGARDING NEW US REGULATIONS ON
PRODUCT CHANGES IN US GSP. EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND TO CURA
FROM KATZ IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING
AND REF B.

2. THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW US PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE
CONSIDERATION OF PRODUCTS FOR POSSIBLE ADDITION TO GSP
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WAS NOT SUDDEN. THE POSSIBILITY AND INDEED THE LIKELIHOOD
THAT THE US WOULD ADOPT SUCH NEW PROCEDURES HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED BY USG REPRESENTATIVES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, INCLUDING
DURING THE MOST RECENT MEETING OF THE UNCTAD COMMITTEE
ON PREFERENCES, AT SEVERAL UNCTAD SPONSORED SEMINARS ON
THE GSP, AND DURING THE 7TH REGULAR MEETING OF SCCN IN

BUENOS AIRES MAY 17-23, 1977.

3. THE USG REGRETS THAT BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ALLOW FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW REGULATIONS AND THE FIRST REVIEW UNDER THESE REGULATIONS. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS PROBLEM, (FOR THIS REVIEW ONLY) WE WERE VERY FLEXIBLE WITH REGARD TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF PRODUCTS FOR THE REVIEW FROM BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INTERESTS. IN GENERAL, IF AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE REGULATIONS, THE REQUEST WAS ACCEPTED EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME OF THE REQUIRED INFORMATION. UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE CASE OF ARGENTINA, NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION, FOR WHAT WE RECEIVED THROUGH THE OAS WAS SIMPLY A LIST OF PRODUCTS. OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS CHILE, BANGLADESH, THAILAND AND SRI LANKA WERE ABLE TO SUPPLY ALL OR MOST OF THE REQUIRED INFORMATION IN SPITE OF THE SHORT LEAD TIME, AND THEIR PRODUCTS WERE ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW.

4. THE ADOPTION OF THESE NEW REGULATIONS IS IN FACT A DEMONSTRATION OF THE US COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR GSP BY FORMALLY ESTABLISHING THE RIGHT OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE REQUESTS AND TO PRESENT EVIDENCE IN THE DECISION PROCESS. THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IS INFORMATION THAT IS NEEDED BY THE INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGENCY TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE (TPSC) TO MAKE A RATIONAL DECISION ON A PRODUCT, AND IS SIMILAR TO THE INFORMATION REQUIRED OF DOMESTIC PETITIONERS. IN MAKING THESE DECISIONS THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 REQUIRES THAT WE LOOK AT INTER ALIATHE EFFECT OF OUR ACTIONS ON THE ECONOMI DEVELOPMENT OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES, AND THUS IT IS IN ARGENTINA'S INTEREST TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATE THAT ADDING THE PRODUCT REQUESTED WILL IN FACT AID HER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5.LAST YEAR, BEFORE THE NEW REGULATIONS TOOK EFFECT, WE RECEIVEDREQUESTS FROM BENEFICIARIES TO CONSIDER THE ADDITION OF OVER 600 PRODUCTS (MOST REQUESTED BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES). AS NO CRITERIA EXISTED ON WHICH TO BASE A SELECTION AND WE COULD NOT CONSIDER ALL THESE PRODUCTS, ONLY 39, WERE CHOSEN. THIS YEAR WE RECEIVED REQUESTS TO CONSIDER ABOUT 200 PRODUCTS FOR ADDITION, OF WHICH WE ARE ABLE TO CONSIDER 92 FOR WHICH THE REQUIRED INFORMATION WAS SUBMITTED.

6. WE HOPE THAT GOA WILL BEGIN NOW TO DEVELOP THE REQUIRED INFORMATION ON PRODUCTS IT WISHES TO HAVE

CONSIDERED FOR ADDITION NEXT YEAR. IF THIS INFORMATION
IS SUBMITTED IN THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR, THE TPSC WILL
HAVE TIME TO EXAMINE IT AND INFORM GOA WHETHER OR NOT

IT IS ACCEPTABLE. GOA WILL THEN HAVE TIME TO CORRECT
ANY DEFICIENCIES BEFORE THE NEXT REVIEW BEGINS IN JULY. VANCE

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